

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 3850–3864; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 276 and H. Res. 429, were introduced. Page H3246

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 3504, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and to further define the criteria for capital repair and operation and maintenance, amended (H. Doc. 105–533); and

H. Res. 430, providing for consideration of H.R. 2431, to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution (H. Doc. 105–534). Page H3246

Recess: The House recessed at 9:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:36 a.m. Pages H3109–16

Former Members of Congress Association Annual Meeting: Agreed that the proceedings during the recess be printed in the Congressional Record and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks. Page H3117

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 429, electing Representative Parker to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; Representative Lewis of Kentucky to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Representative Burr of North Carolina to the Committee on International Relations; and Representative Bono to the Committees on Judiciary and National Security. Pages H3116–17

Presidential Messages: Read the following messages from the President:

Imposition of Sanctions on India: Message wherein he transmitted his report concerning his actions to impose sanctions on India—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–250); and Page H3119

National Emergency Re Iran: Message wherein he transmitted his report concerning the National Emergency with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 105–252); Pages H3222–23

Financial Services Competition Act of 1997: The House passed H.R. 10, to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers by a

recorded vote of 214 ayes to 213 noes, Roll No. 151. Pages H3132–H3222

On demand for a separate vote, agreed to the Metcalf amendment that allows the retention of “Federal” in the name of a depository institution that is converted from a Federal savings association to a national bank or a State bank by a yeas and nays vote of 256 yeas to 166 nays, Roll No. 150. The amendment was agreed to earlier in the Committee of the Whole by a division vote of 14 to 7.

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Agreed To:

The Bliley amendment that requires each financial regulatory authority to review consumer fee disclosures for accuracy, simplicity, and completeness; provides the SEC with backup authority to inspect any wholesale financial holding company; preserves the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; allows Federal regulators to jointly preempt State law that afford less consumer protection than Federal regulations; clarifies language to preempt state laws which prevent or significantly interfere with national bank activities or affiliations to make it more consistent with current law and the Barnett Bank of Marion County Supreme Court case; preserves current legal standards governing bank insurance sales; provides for interagency consultation to encourage coordination and sharing of confidential information to improve the supervision of financial holding companies and affiliated institutions; permits banks to charge unlimited fees for services in their trust department including stock purchase plans as long as there are no brokerage commissions; preserves the authority of the FTC and Attorney General in antitrust regulation; clarifies the jurisdiction of the FTC and preserves the authority of Federal banking agencies; clarifies that certain acquisitions of insurance companies and securities firms are subject to the Hart-Scott-Rodino antitrust review; requires an annual GAO report on market concentration in the financial services industry and its impact on consumers; clarifies the type of derivative instruments that can be sold by banks; specifies that a qualified investor includes the government of any foreign country; requires a study by the Secretary of the Treasury, Federal banking agencies, and the SEC on the extent that services are being provided as intended by the Community Reinvestment Act; and requires an interim report from the FTC on its ongoing study on privacy issues (agreed to by a recorded vote of 407 yeas to 11 noes, Roll No. 143);

Pages H3173–82

The Leach substitute amendment to the Roukema amendment that eliminates the 5 percent commercial basket for financial holding companies and allows a 15 percent market basket to sunset after 10 years for certain grandfathered financial holding companies (agreed to by a recorded vote of 229 ayes to 193 noes, Roll No. 146); **Pages H3209–13, H3215**

The Roukema amendment, as amended, that eliminates the 5 percent commercial basket for financial holding companies and allows a 15 percent market basket to sunset after 10 years for certain grandfathered financial holding companies (agreed to by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 147); **Pages H3204–09, H3216**

The Kingston amendment that requires a GAO study of the economic impact that enactment will have on financial institutions with total assets of \$100 million or less (agreed to by a recorded vote of 404 ayes to 18 noes with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 148); **Pages H3213–14, H3216–17**

The Roukema amendment that requires a study by the FDIC on the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund with respect to size, risk, concentration levels of funds by number and geographic area, and issues and findings related to the planned merger of the funds (agreed to by a recorded vote of 406 ayes to 13 noes, Roll No. 149); **Pages H3214–15, H3217–18**

The Sanders amendment that requires a GAO study regarding the efficacy and benefits of uniformly limiting the fees associated with acquiring financial products; **Page H3218**

The Metcalf amendment that allows the retention of “Federal” in the name of a depository institution that is converted from a Federal savings association to a national bank or a state bank (agreed to by a division vote of 14 to 7); and **Pages H3218–21**

The Moran amendment that provides a 5 year sunset on the requirement that a bank purchase an insurance agency in order to engage in new insurance activities in a new state. **Page H3220**

Rejected:

The LaFalce amendment that sought to authorize the subsidiaries of banks to engage in all financial activities, except for insurance underwriting and real estate development, through an operating subsidiary structure; ensures that consumer protection regulations accede to the stronger of state or Federal consumer protection laws; requires an annual GAO report on market concentration and its impact on consumer and interim reports from the FTC on its ongoing study on consumer privacy issues (rejected by a recorded vote of 115 ayes to 306 noes with Roll No. 144); and **Pages H3182–92**

The Baker amendment that sought to eliminate Community Reinvestment Act requirements for

FDIC insured depository institutions with total assets of less than \$100 million; establishes a three year sunset on the requirement that a bank acquire an insurance agency that is at least two years old and provides that state insurance commissioners can exempt a bank from this requirement; requires a study by the Comptroller of the Currency in conjunction with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners on the effectiveness of section 104(b)(2)(A) relating to the use of the Illinois law in establishing a safe harbor for the regulation of insurance sales and solicitation activity; prohibits the acquisition of a unitary thrift by an unregulated nonfinancial company; and authorizes subsidiaries of national banks to engage in certain financial activities (rejected by a recorded vote of 140 ayes to 281 noes with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 145); **Pages H3192–H3203**

H. Res. 428, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yea and nay vote of 311 yeas to 105 nays, Roll No. 142. Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part 1 of H. Rept. 105–531, the report accompanying the rule, was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Pages H3122–32

Mandates Information Act of 1998: The House completed general debate and began consideration of amendments to H.R. 3534, to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates. Consideration of amendments will resume on Thursday, May 14. **Pages H3223–31**

Agreed to the Davis of Virginia amendment that clarifies the definition of Federal intergovernmental mandates to insure that the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act applies to Medicaid and other entitlement program mandates. **Pages H3229–31**

Earlier the House agreed to H. Res. 426, the rule that is providing for consideration of the bill by a voice vote. **Pages H3119–22**

Senate Messages: Message received today from the Senate appears on page H3116.

Referral: S. Con. Res. 75, honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood, was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. **Page H3244**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H3247–58.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea and nay votes and eight recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H3131–32, H3181–82, H3192, H3203, H3215, H3216, H3216–17, H3217–18, H3221, and H3221–22. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: Met at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT—EPA ACTIVITIES—ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research and the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry held a joint oversight hearing on EPA activities related to concentrated animal feeding operations. Testimony was heard from Representative Miller of California; the following officials of the EPA: Michael Cook, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water; and Elaine Stanley, Director, Office of Compliance, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance; Pearlie Reed, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA; John Baker, Commissioner, Natural Resources Conservation Commission, State of Texas; and Peter Rooney, Secretary, Environmental Protection Agency, State of California.

OVERSIGHT—IS FHA LIMITING CHOICES FOR HOME FINANCE?

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development held an oversight hearing on Is FHA Limiting Choices for Home Finance? An Examination of Fair Housing Compliance. Testimony was heard from Representative Davis of Illinois; and public witnesses.

FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing on First Things First: Review of the Federal Government's Commitment to Funding Special Education. Testimony was heard from Representatives Bass and McCarthy of New York; and public witnesses.

CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Failed to obtain two-thirds Committee majority to grant immunity to four individuals regarding campaign fundraising investigation.

KYOTO PROTOCOL

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on the Kyoto Protocol: Problems with U.S. Sovereignty and the Lack of Developing Country Participation. Testimony was heard from Representative Knollenberg; Janet Yellen, Chair, Council of Economic Advisors; Stuart Eizenstat, Under Secretary, Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere approved for full Committee action amended the following resolutions: H. Con. Res. 254, calling on the Government of Cuba to extradite to the United States convicted felon Joanne Chesimard and all other individuals who have fled the United States to avoid prosecution or confinement for criminal offenses and who are currently living freely in Cuba; and H. Res. 421, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives deploring the tragic and senseless murder of Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi, calling on the Government of Guatemala to expeditiously bring those responsible for the crime to justice, and calling on the people of Guatemala to reaffirm their commitment to continue to implement the peace accords without interruption.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Began markup of H.R. 3150, Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1998.

Will continue tomorrow.

OVERSIGHT—NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

Committee on Resources: Held an oversight hearing on the National Forest Foundation. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Roger C. Viadero, Inspector General; and Michael Dombeck, Chief, Forest Service; and a public witness.

FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule providing 1 hour of debate on H.R. 2431, Freedom From Religious Persecution Act. The rule makes in order as an original bill for amendment purposes an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 3806, as modified by the amendments printed in part 1 of the report of the Committee on Rules. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part 2 of the report of the Committee on Rules. The rule provides that amendments will be considered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided between a proponent and an opponent and are not subject to amendment or a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in